



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/722,371

11/24/2003

Minmin Qin

30610/30009A

8577

4743

7590

06/05/2006

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP
233 S. WACKER DRIVE, SUITE 6300
SEARS TOWER
CHICAGO, IL 60606

EXAMINER

RAO, MANJUNATH N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1652

DATE MAILED: 06/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 8-28 are currently pending and present for examination in this application.

Drawings

Drawings submitted in this application are accepted by the Examiner for examination purposes only.

Specification

Examiner notes that applicants have not updated the relationship of the instant application to its parent application that has matured in to a US patent. Examiner urges applicants to amend said information by providing the US patent number in response to this Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 8 and claims 9-28 which depend therefrom are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 8 recites the phrase "an acidic pH". The metes and bounds of this phrase are not clear to the Examiner. It is not clear to the Examiner as to what specific pH unit is contemplated by the applicant. A perusal of the specification did not provide the Examiner with a specific definition.

Art Unit: 1652

Claim 8 and claims 9-28 which depend therefrom are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 8 recites the phrase "first metal-ion chelate chromatography". The metes and bounds of this phrase are not clear to the Examiner. It is not clear to the Examiner as to what specific metal-ion is contemplated by the applicant. A perusal of the specification did not provide the Examiner with a specific definition.

Claims 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 26 recites the phrase "is enhanced by". The metes and bounds of this phrase are not clear to the Examiner. It is not clear to the Examiner as to how much of an increase and in comparison to what is considered as "enhanced" by the applicant. A perusal of the specification did not provide the Examiner with a specific definition.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 8-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for a method of purifying a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid SEQ ID NO:2, having α -iduronidase activity from confluent cultures of 2.131 CHO cells transformed with a vector encoding said polypeptide, wherein the method comprises using a Cibacron dye affinity chromatography followed by a copper-chelating chromatography at a pH of 5.3 such that

Art Unit: 1652

the polypeptide is purified to the tune of more than 99%, does not reasonably provide enablement for such a method of purification of variants and mutants of any or all human α -iduronidase (i.e., of SEQ ID NO:2) using any metal chelating chromatography step and at any acidic pH. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

Factors to be considered in determining whether undue experimentation is required, are summarized in *In re Wands* (858 F.2d 731, 8 USPQ 2d 1400 (Fed. Cir. 1988)) as follows: (1) the quantity of experimentation necessary, (2) the amount of direction or guidance presented, (3) the presence or absence of working examples, (4) the nature of the invention, (5) the state of the prior art, (6) the relative skill of those in the art, (7) the predictability or unpredictability of the art, and (8) the breadth of the claim(s).

Claims 8-28 are so broad as to encompass a method of purification of any human α -iduronidase including variants and mutants of SEQ ID NO:2, using any metal chelating chromatography step and at any acidic pH. The scope of the claims is not commensurate with the enablement provided by the disclosure with regard to the extremely large number of α -iduronidases and other components used in the method such as use of any metal-ion chelation and at any acidic pH, broadly encompassed by the claims. Since the amino acid sequence of a protein determines its structural and functional properties, predictability of which changes can be tolerated in a protein's amino acid sequence and obtain the desired activity requires a knowledge of and guidance with regard to which amino acids in the protein's sequence, if any, are tolerant of modification and which are conserved (i.e. expectedly intolerant to modification), and detailed

Art Unit: 1652

knowledge of the ways in which the proteins' structure relates to its function. However, in this case the disclosure is limited to the nucleotide and encoded amino acid sequence of only a single α -iduronidase isolated from a human source. It would require undue experimentation of the skilled artisan to make and use the claimed polypeptides for purification. The specification is limited to teaching the purification of SEQ ID NO: 2 but provides no guidance with regard to the making of variants and mutants and their purification. In view of the great breadth of the claim, amount of experimentation required to make the claimed polypeptides, the lack of guidance, working examples, and unpredictability of the art in predicting function from a polypeptide primary structure (e.g., see Ngo et al. in *The Protein Folding Problem and Tertiary Structure Prediction*, 1994, Merz et al. (ed.), Birkhauser, Boston, MA, pp. 433 and 492-495), the claimed invention would require undue experimentation. As such, the specification fails to teach one of ordinary skill how to use the full scope of the polypeptides encompassed by this claim.

While enzyme isolation techniques, recombinant and mutagenesis techniques are known, and it is routine in the art to screen for multiple substitutions or multiple modifications as encompassed by the instant claims, the specific amino acid positions within a protein's sequence where amino acid modifications can be made with a reasonable expectation of success in obtaining the desired activity/utility are limited in any protein and the result of such modifications is unpredictable. In addition, one skilled in the art would expect any tolerance to modification for a given protein to diminish with each further and additional modification, e.g. multiple substitutions.

The specification does not support the broad scope of the claims which encompass a method of purifying polypeptides comprising all modifications and fragments of SEQ ID NOS:2

Art Unit: 1652

because the specification does not establish: (A) regions of the protein structure which may be modified without affecting its activity; (B) the general tolerance of α -iduronidases to modification and extent of such tolerance; (C) a rational and predictable scheme for modifying any amino acid residue with an expectation of obtaining the desired biological function; and (D) the specification provides insufficient guidance as to which of the essentially infinite possible choices is likely to be successful.

Thus, applicants have not provided sufficient guidance to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to make and use the claimed invention in a manner reasonably correlated with the scope of the claims broadly including a method of purifying α -iduronidases with an enormous number of amino acid modifications SEQ ID NOS:2. The scope of the claims must bear a reasonable correlation with the scope of enablement (*In re Fisher*, 166 USPQ 19 24 (CCPA 1970)). Without sufficient guidance, purification of iduronidases having the desired biological characteristics is unpredictable and the experimentation left to those skilled in the art is unnecessarily, and improperly, extensive and undue. See *In re Wands* 858 F.2d 731, 8 USPQ2d 1400 (Fed. Cir, 1988).

Claims 8-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claims 8-28 are directed to a method of purification of a genus of α -iduronidase including its fragments and muteins corresponding to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2. Claims 8-

Art Unit: 1652

28 are rejected under this section of 35 USC 112 because the claims are directed to the purification of a genus of polypeptides derived from SEQ ID NO:2 including modified polypeptide sequences, modified by at least one of deletion, addition, insertion and substitution of an amino acid residue in SEQ ID NO:2 and fragments of SEQ ID NO:2 that have not been disclosed in the specification. No description has been provided of the modified polypeptide sequences encompassed by the claim. No information, beyond the characterization of SEQ ID NO:2 has been provided by applicants which would indicate that they had possession of the genus of modified polypeptides for use in the claimed method of purification. The specification does not contain any disclosure of the structure of all the polypeptide sequences derived from SEQ ID NO:2, including fragments and variants within the scope of the claimed genus. The genus of polypeptides claimed is a large variable genus including peptides which can have a wide variety of structures. Therefore many structurally unrelated polypeptides are encompassed within the scope of these claims. The specification discloses only a single species of the claimed genus which is insufficient to put one of skill in the art in possession of the attributes and features of all species within the claimed genus. Therefore, one skilled in the art cannot reasonably conclude that applicant had possession of the claimed invention at the time the instant application was filed.

Applicant is referred to the revised guidelines concerning compliance with the written description requirement of U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, published in the Official Gazette and also available at www.uspto.gov.

Conclusion

Art Unit: 1652

None of the claims are allowable.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Manjunath N. Rao, Ph.D. whose telephone number is 571-272-0939. The Examiner can normally be reached on 7.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapura Achutamurthy can be reached on 571-272-0928. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300 for regular communications and for After Final communications. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-1600.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manjunath N. Rao', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Manjunath N. Rao, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1652

May 24, 2006